ORIGINAL STORY: Fummy
ART: Yuna Kagesaki

CHAPTER 2

The Witch's House

The Diary of Ellen

NEITHER MY MOTHER NOR FATHER ...
... LOVED ME...
...SO I ××××ED THEM.
AND SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN IN THIS HOUSE.

はっ
HA
(GASP)

WHERE ...
...AM I?
.....
MOSO (RUSTLE)
もそ!!
...A PRETTY CUTE ROOM...
THIS IS...
YOU'RE AWAKE.

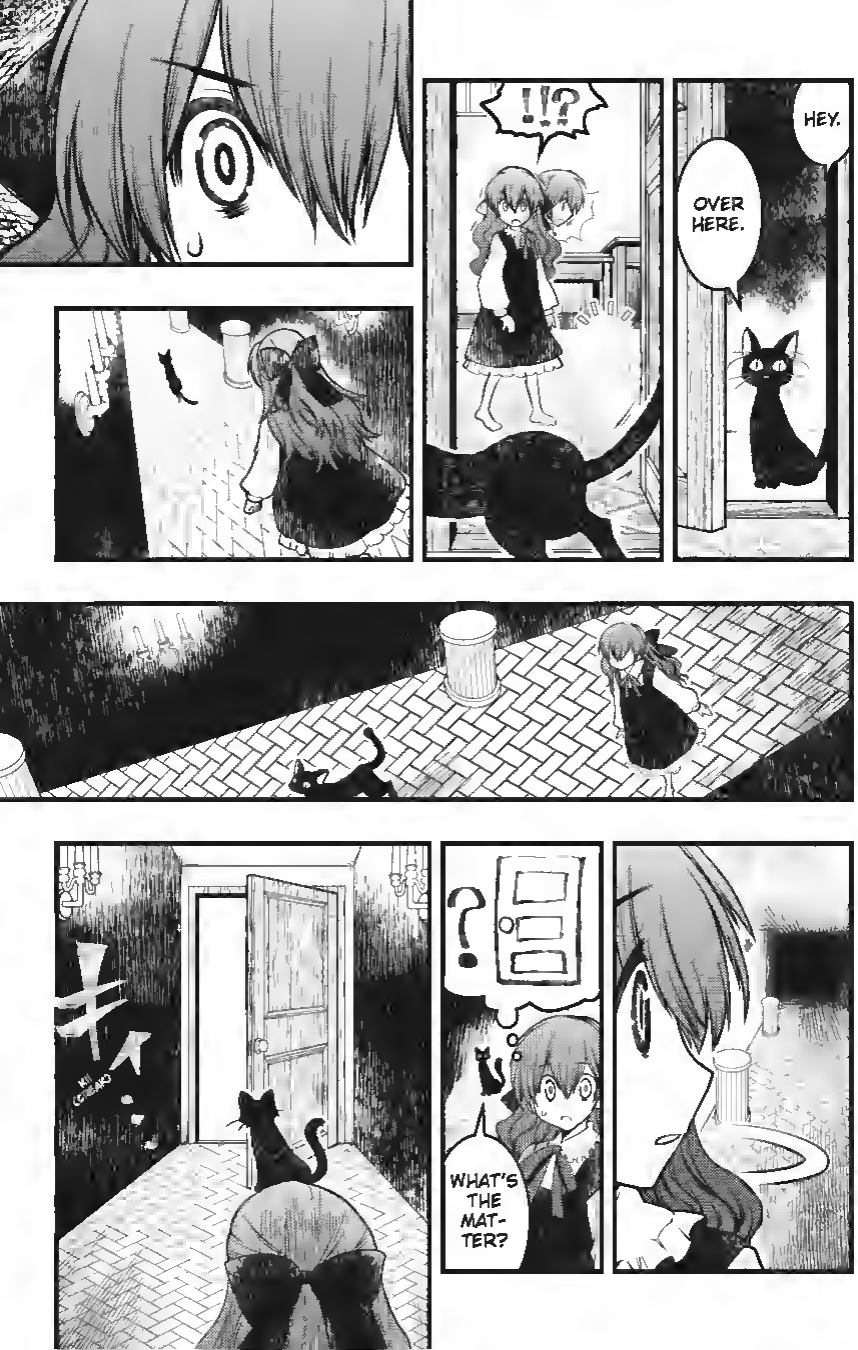
AS I ALREADY TOLD YOU...
...THIS IS YOUR HOUSE.
WHERE ARE WE.....?
MY HOUSE?
BUT MY MEMORIES CUT OFF RIGHT THERE, AFTER NODDING TO THE CAT.
THINKING BACK, I DO REMEMBER SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

WHERE'D THESE CLOTHES COME FROM!?
WELCOME, ELLEN...
...MY WITCH.
SHIPA (SHHIP)
しぱっ
...WITCH?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE MADE YOU INTO A WITCH.
DIDN'T I MENTION?
DID HE REALLY...
...TELL ME THAT?
AS FOR WHAT THAT MEANS ...
WELL,
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.
YES.

!?
JUST AS I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT.
...YOU REALLY HAD A CUTE FACE UNDER THERE.
AND Y'KNOW, ELLEN...
TSURU (SHIVER)
つる…!
...SAYS THAT...!?
AND STILL...
HE'S SEEN MY HORRIBLE FACE?
.....

!?
.....
IS THIS...
...A DREAM?
JUST ANOTHER PRIVILEGE AFFORDED TO WITCHES.
IF THIS IS A DREAM ...
...I'D RATHER NOT WAKE UP FROM IT.
YET

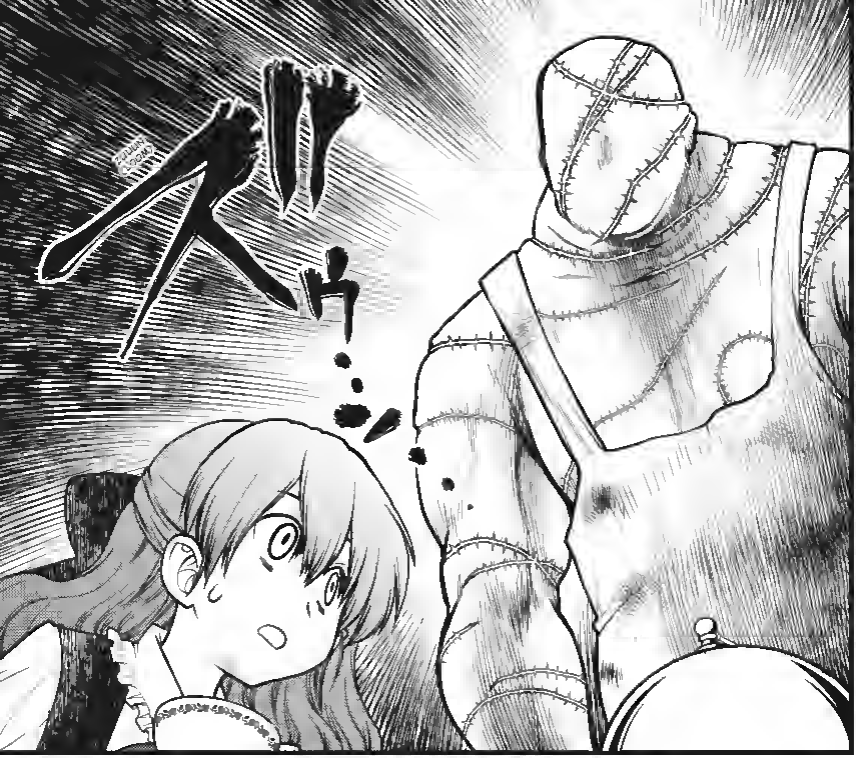
YOU CAN NEVER LEAVE THIS HOUSE, THOUGH ...
...BE-CAUSE ...
... YOU'RE A WITCH NOW.
I...
...CAN'T GO OUT-SIDE?
BUT SO WHAT IF YOU CAN'T?
NO ONE EVER GROWS BORED IN THIS HOUSE. COME AND SEE WHAT I MEAN.
GI CREAK


!!?
HEY.
OVER HERE.
MEOW
?
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?

HERE.
SIT, SIT.
KACHA (CLINK)
FUWA (FLOAT)
TOPO (GLUG)
KATAN (CLUNK)

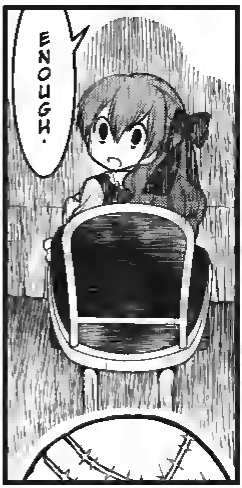
ENJOY.
KACHA
KACHA
YOU'LL NEVER GO HUNGRY HERE...
...OR NEED TO FEAR THE COLD.
WHAT...
...DO YOU CALL THIS?
...YUMMY.

TEA, OF COURSE.
TEA...
AND WHAT ARE THOSE FLOWERS CALLED?
WHICH?
THOSE.
AH, THOSE ARE ROSES.
NEVER HEARD OF THEM?
ROSES?
THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S A WEIRD FEELING...
LEARNING NEW THINGS JUST MAKES MY HEART LEAP WITH JOY.
GACHA (CLICK)


ZUUU (SOUND EFFECT)

HE SERVES AS THE COOK HERE.

PEN (SFX)
AND DON'T DON'T OPEN DOORS SO SUD-DENLY.
DON'T SUR-PRISE US LIKE THAT !!


ENOUGH.

IS THE FOOD READY?
コクリ...
KOKU (NOD)

KARA (FOP)
GOBO (BUBBLE)
GOBO
HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SERVING HER?
NYAA (HISS)
PESHI (WHAP)
PESHI
PESHI
WE SHOULD BE GIVING HER A GRAND FEAST!
WH—
WHAT THE HECK!?
WHAT'S THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?
PIKURI (TWITCH)
HUH? THAT'S ODD.
I THOUGHT...
...THEY LOVED THIS STUFF?
YOU'RE THINKING OF OUR LAST GUEST.
NOT THIS ONE.
SO JUST WHIP UP SOMETHING NORMAL.
COMPLETELY...
...NORMAL!
BACK TO THE KITCHEN!

MEOOW!
YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING THAT STRANGE FOOD, HUH?
SURI (RUB)
SURI
SORRY ABOUT THAT, REALLY.
THAT OLD COOK IS GROWING USELESS.
OKAAAY.
SUGO (PLOD)
SUGO
JUST A RELIC LEFT BEHIND BY OUR LAST INHABITANT.
LAST INHABITANT?
SO...
...SOMEONE ELSE WAS LIVING HERE?
FOR A LONG WHILE INDEED.
...THERE'S BEEN NO ONE AT ALL.
BUT FOR A WHILE NOW ...
YES.

AS MANY BOOKS AS YOU COULD EVER WANT HERE.
ELLEN.
YOU CAN'T READ, RIGHT?
I CAN TEACH YOU.
TON CHOPP
HAVE A SEAT.
TALES OF BOTH OUR KIND AND YOURS.
SOME USEFUL TALES, OTHERS, NOT SO MUCH.
TALES OF COUNT-LESS PEO-PLE.
TALES FROM EVERY COUNTRY THERE IS.
GIII (CREAK)
ギィィ…
...THE WHOLE HOUSE IS SO HAPPY TO HAVE YOU HERE.
THAT'S WHY...
I SEE.
I'LL BRING YOU THERE.
OH. THERE'S AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO SHOW YOU.
ISN'T THIS WHERE WE CAME FROM?
YEP.
BUT IT'S STILL THE WAY WE HAVE TO GO.
OVER HERE.

DID THEY LIKE ROSES A LOT?
THE PERSON BEFORE ME...
HMM?
HMM...
WHERE TO BEGIN?
ALRIGHT, THEN.
I SEE.
AND YOU'LL COME TO AS WELL.
INDEED.
BACK THEN
...
LET'S START...
...WITH "ELLEN."
...I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING.
CHIKAFU (CRIP)

HOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN NAME, THAT IS.
PI (FWIP)
THIS IS THE FIRST WRITING YOU'LL LEARN.
KURU (SPIN)
SHYA (SKRITCH)
KURU
SHYARI (SKRITCH)
I HAD NO IDEA THAT ROSES ARE LIFE-SUCKING TO WITCHES...
...AND THAT THEIR VINES CAN BE WEAPONS TO ROB HUMANS OF THEIR LIVES.
Ellen
ELLEN.
Ellen
HARA (FLUTTER)

I LEARNED TO READ AND WRITE...
...UNTIL I COULD CONSUME SIMPLER BOOKS WITH EASE.
"YOU HAVE A STRONG MEMORY."
THE CAT TOLD ME THAT.
I WAS GIVEN THIS HOUSE IN EXCHANGE FOR MY PARENTS' SOULS, AND THAT WAS THAT.
THE CAT NEVER ASKED ANYTHING OF ME.
AND JUST AS THE BLACK CAT PROMISED ...
...I NEVER GREW BORED IN THE HOUSE.
!
"O." THE NEXT FEW DAYS, I [illegible] LEFT THE LI-BRARY.
...THAT THE HOUSE WAS A GIFT BESTOWED ON ME BY LADY LUCK.
I WAS CONVINCED...

THE GIRL WHO SOUGHT HER PARENTS' LOVE AND NOTHING ELSE.
WITH A NEW, ICY PERSPECTIVE, I LOOKED BACK AT MY OLD SELF—
THAT DESIRE WAS SOMETHING THAT COULD EASILY BE GILDED OVER BY A HEALTHY BODY, A WARM BED TO CALL MY OWN, AND A WAY TO SATE MY HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE.
...THE HALLWAYS WOULD MULTIPLY WHEN I GLANCED AWAY...
...AND DOORWAYS WOULD VANISH.
THE ANIMATED FURNITURE WAS ENOUGH EVIDENCE, BUT ALSO
IT WAS CLEAR THIS HOUSE WAS ANYTHING BUT NORMAL.
"THE WITCH'S HOUSE TAKES FORM BY PROVIDENCE OF THE WITCH'S POWER."
"THE WITCH'S HOUSE TAKES FORM..."

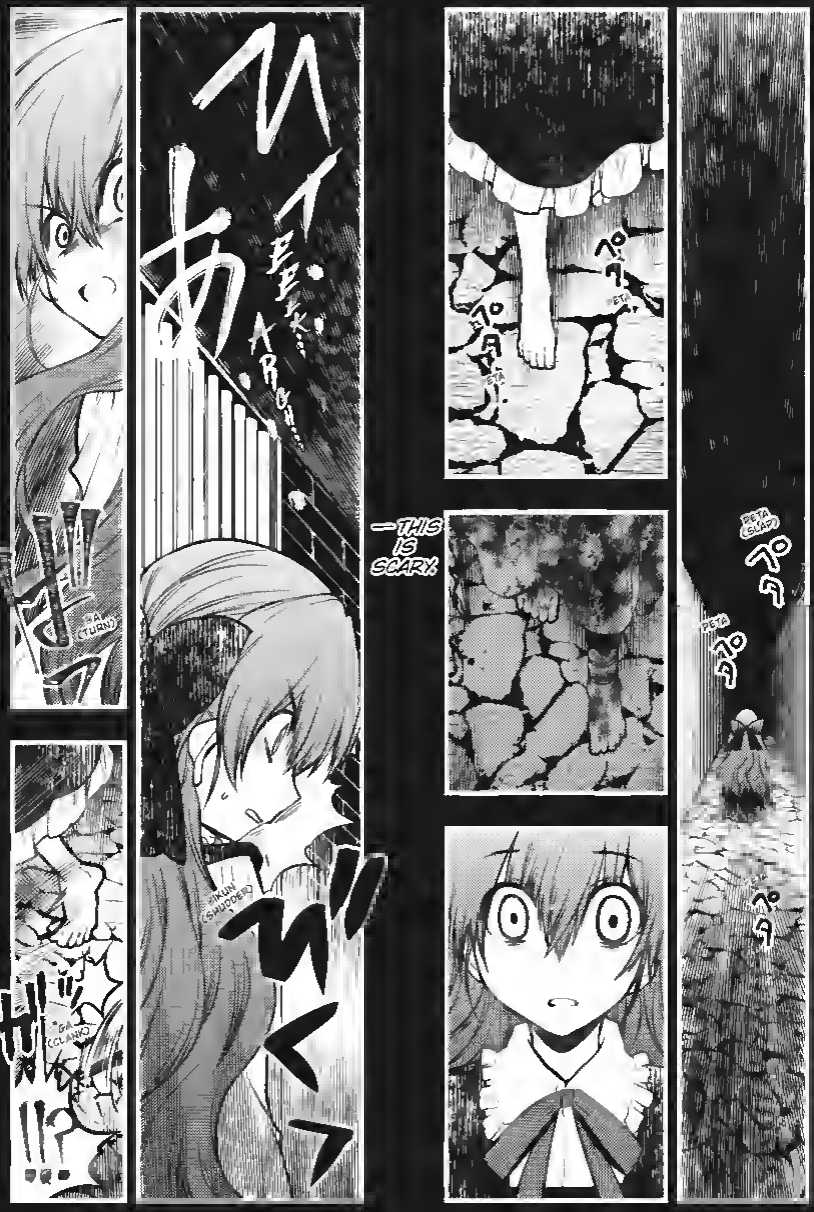
...SO I WAS FAIRLY CONVINCED.

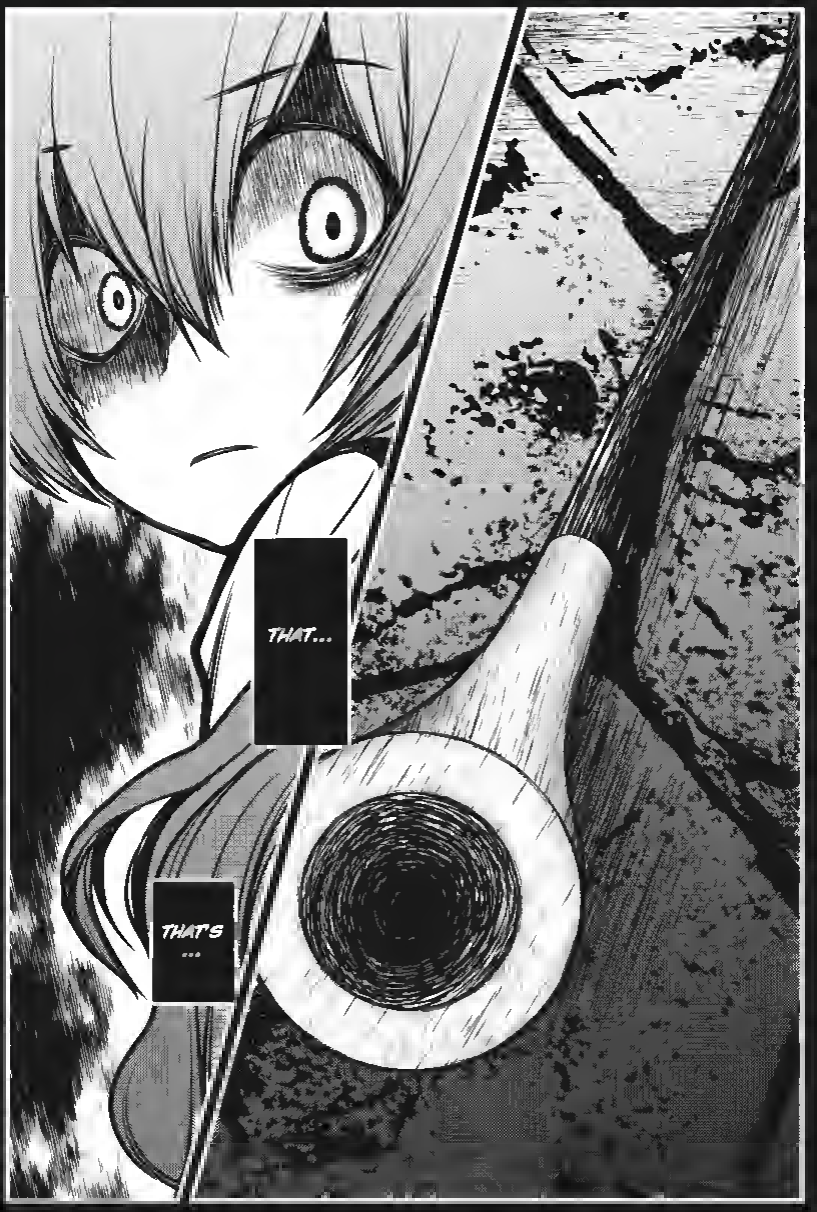
BUT I PRE-TENDED NOT TO NOTICE.
PAULA (FLIP)
I FELT LIKE...
...I'D SEEN THAT TREE SOMEWHERE.
.....
I WAS A WITCH NOW.
I WAS NO LONGER A RESIDENT OF THAT VILLAGE.
YES, BUT ONLY IN THE HOUSE.
I'M ALLOWED TO LIVE A LIFE OF FREEDOM IN THAT HOUSE.

...ALL ALONE.
I'M HERE...
I'M LONELY.
MAYBE I'LL GO SAY HI TO THE BLACK CAT.
WHISPER
WHISPER
HEH HEH
EVEN THE WEEDS TALK?
WHISPER
WHISPER
HELLO.
.....
I'D LIKE A HUMAN FRIEND.
WHISPER
FU FU FU...
WHISPER
FU FU
HI THERE
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
FU FU...
THE BLACK CAT.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT BE?

TEE HEE
JUST GO AND TRY IT.
GO AND TRY
TAKE THE PATH OVER THERE. HEAD STRAIGHT DOWN.
STRAIGHT DOWN
STRAIGHT DOWN
HEH HEH HEH
TEE HEE
SURE DO, TEE HEE.
I SURE DO.
I SURE DO.
TEE HEE
TEE HEE
THANK YOU.
FU-FU-FU-FU...
HEH HEH HEH
THERE ...
...YOU'LL FIND THE BLACK CAT.
FIND HIM, YES.
A HA HA
HEH HEH HEH
HEH HEH HEH HEH
HEE HEE HEE
HEH HEH
SH COMMAND

BLACK CAT?
YOU AROUND HERE?
GAKOON
GAKOON
GA
KOON
GA
KOON
GA
K


PETA (SLAP)
PETA
PETA
PETA
—THIS IS SCARY.
EEK... AARGH...
SA (TURN)
BIKUN (SHUDDER)
GA (CLANG)


THAT...
THAT'S ...

おおおお

YOU AWAKE?
I WAS DREAM-ING.
REALLY ?
YES.

...YOU'VE LEARNED ENOUGH.
LOGIC COMES AFTER...
?
...ALSO WHEN SPEAKING WITH OTHERS, OF COURSE.
YOU HAVE TO READ THE WRITING BETWEEN THE LINES...
LIKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.
THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO LEARN OUT THERE.
YOU'VE ONLY JUST LEARNED TO READ AND WRITE.

IT'S MY FAULT FOR NEGLECTING TO MENTION ANY OF THIS.
I'VE BROUGHT IN A FEW ODDBALLS...
...WHO SHOULD BE USEFUL TO YOUR STUDIES.
THEY'RE PRONE TO LYING, THOUGH, SO...
...YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.

TO BE CONTINUED IN *THE WITCH'S HOUSE* CHAPTER 3...!

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The Diary of Ellen

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TRANSLATION: CALEB COOK
LETTERING: ROCHELLE GANCIO

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